

**Indiana Commission for Early Learning and School Readiness
Meeting Minutes for October 21, 2004**

I. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dr. Suellen Reed welcomed the Commission. A quorum was present. Commission members in attendance included:

- Dr. Suellen Reed, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Rushville, co-chair
- Sen. Connie Sipes, New Albany, representing the Senate
- Marilyn Schultz, Indianapolis, ex-officio, non-voting member (State Budget Agency)
- Cheryl Sullivan, Indianapolis, ex-officio, non-voting member (FSSA)
- Robert Marra, Indianapolis, ex-officio, non-voting member (Dept. of Education)
- Mary E. Davis, Richmond, representing full-day kindergarten teachers
- Dr. Brent Leichty, Bourbon, representing parents
- Marlane Rae Tisdale, Indianapolis, representing local school boards
- Lynn Silvey, Pendleton, representing parents
- David Holt, Indianapolis, representing business
- A. Nanette Bowling, Kokomo, representing Head Start providers
- Evelyn Ridley-Turner, Indianapolis, ex-officio, non-voting member (Dept. of Correction)
- Dr. Gregory Wilson, Indianapolis (Marion Co.) ex-officio, non-voting member (Dept. of Health)
- Dianna Wallace, New Castle, representing the Indiana Assoc. for the Education of Young Children (IAEYC)
- Debbie Beeler, Mitchell, representing communities
- Timothy Dunnuck, Bloomington, representing the Child Care Center (at Indiana University)
- Britt Magneson, South Bend, representing curriculum development specialists
- Gwen Long-Lucas, Fishers, representing “Y” programs

Dr. Reed thanked the group for coming to do important work for young children. She said a few words to honor Dr. H. Dean Evans (former Superintendent of Public Instruction) who recently passed away. She asked for a motion on the minutes. Debbie Beeler moved to accept the minutes. Nanette Bowling seconded. Dr. Reed mentioned that Mary Downes was pulled away and would not be able to attend, but Stan Jones was present to represent the Governor’s office.

II. Work Group Task and Process

Dr. Reed explained that the staff had compiled information and distributed it for reflection and feedback. The process of sending out information and asking for feedback via email will continue after the next two Commission meetings.

She elaborated that during this meeting the group will continue with the same structure for the work plan as it did during the September meeting. The four groups – *full-day kindergarten*, *ensuring access*, *quality and coordination*, and *parent involvement* – will focus their efforts on responding to the gaps and barriers identified during the last meeting. Groups will work to make recommendations more concrete to assist in providing information for the Education Roundtable and to begin forming our report due at the end of December.

Two of group leaders – Dr. Ena Shelley and Dr. Carol Touloukian – were unable to attend this meeting. In their absence, Timothy Dunnuck led the *quality and coordination* group and Nannette Bowling led the *parent involvement* group. As mentioned before, the four groups will remain the same for the next two meetings, each group will report out when finished, and every member will have an opportunity to provide input on every topic via email.

Dr. Reed reintroduced Rilyn Gipson from the Blumberg Center.

III. Work Session in Groups

Rilyn Gipson, process facilitator, complimented the group on the good work completed during the last work session. She briefly reviewed what had transpired during the last meeting, and pointed out that the results of that work have taken shape in the 26-page document presented to Commission members (also available on the Early Learning and School Readiness Commission website at www.earlylearning.in.gov). She explained that the group would follow a similar format that was taken in September. Rilyn asked the group to take time to review challenges and barriers identified during the last session, and to determine whether any additional challenges should be added. After the groups had completed this task, Rilyn asked the groups to take the rest of the time to generate recommendations around prioritized strategies.

Results from the group work will be available for public viewing on the ELSR Commission website at www.earlylearning.in.gov/meetings. Rilyn Gipson reminded the members that the documented work would be sent quickly to the Commission for responses and input.

IV. Peak Performance Project

Suzanne Clifford of the Family and Social Services Administration, as promised at the July meeting, presented the results of an inventory that was part of the Peak Performance Project. This particular inventory focused on state-administered or state-funded services for families with children. She pointed to a chart posted in the room and a handout for Commission members (available at web site) that would provide valuable information. Suzanne explained the process that was undertaken to obtain information for the inventory, and used examples to illustrate how the data was organized.

Cheryl Orr asked from the audience how the information can be accessed. Suzanne said that the data is not ready for public viewing, but she may be contacted for any information that the

Commission might require. Dr. Reed thanked Suzanne for sharing her work and stressed the importance of working together.

V. Closing Comments/Adjourn

Dr. Suellen Reed announced the next meeting time and place – Tuesday, November 16th at 1:30pm, Government Center South, Conference Room B. She adjourned the meeting at 3:30pm.